



Food insecurity and HIV/AIDS in low-income households in urban Zimbabwe

Author(s): Gwatirisa P, Manderson L
Year: 2009
Journal: Human Organization. 68 (1): 103-112

Abstract:

Contemporary Zimbabwe illustrates the complex ways in which economic, political, social, environmental factors, combined with high levels of illness and early mortality as a result of HIV infection, produce a food crisis. In both rural and urban areas, people are increasingly dependent on national and international food aid agencies for survival. The criteria used by relief agencies to define vulnerability, however, provide little or no flexibility in dynamic and fluid situations. Drawing on research conducted in the east Zimbabwe city of Mutare, we describe the combined impact of drought, unemployment, and inflation on food security and the policy context affecting access to food. In particular, we describe the experiences of primary caregivers of people living with HIV/AIDS in low-income salaried households, who are ineligible for food aid, and the mechanisms they use to meet basic household needs. By drawing attention to the potency of the combination of economic, political, and natural disasters, we illustrate the importance of context in defining and responding to disaster.

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Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Rural, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Country

Other African Country: Zimbabwe

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Other Vulnerable Population: HIV

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content